



*Synopsis of Senate Committee Amendments**

Jeff Grim

Legislative Service Commission

Sub. H.B. 446

127th General Assembly

(S. State and Local Government and Veterans Affairs)

Eliminates the renaming of "dog warden" as "chief animal control officer" and "deputy dog wardens" as "deputy animal control officers" in the House-passed version of the bill, but authorizes a board of county commissioners to establish a title other than county dog warden for the person that is responsible for the enforcement of the Dogs Law, including chief animal control officer.

Delays to December 1, 2009, the effective date of the increase in the statutory minimum annual dog and kennel registration fees established in the House-passed version of the bill.

Requires the owner, keeper, or harbinger of a dog who moves into Ohio from another state and who has registered the dog in the previous state to register the dog within 30 days of moving into this state, and requires the owner, keeper, or harbinger, in lieu of paying the regular registration fee, to pay the fee for duplicate dog tags.

Delays to December 1, 2009, the effective date of the requirement in the House-passed version of the bill that a board of county commissioners obtain and maintain a device that is capable of retrieving information that is contained in a microchip that is subcutaneously inserted into a dog.

Retains the requirement in the House-passed version of the bill that boards of county commissioners increase dog and kennel registration fees in increments rather than a ratio, but decreases the allowable increments for dog registration fees from \$3 to \$2.

Revises the requirement in the House-passed version of the bill that a dog wear a valid registration tag while outside the owner's residence to instead require a dog to wear such a tag while off the owner's premises, and extends an exemption to that requirement to include dogs that participate in dog shows or hunting, obedience, or field tests.

With regard to the bill's requirement that a county auditor revoke the registration of a kennel owner if the appropriate inspecting authority of the kennel determines that the

* This synopsis does not address amendments that may have been adopted on the Senate floor.

owner has violated the animal cruelty statutes and so notifies the auditor, specifies that the appropriate inspecting authority must be the appropriate county inspecting authority.

Requires the Ohio County Dog Wardens Association to administer the Dog Warden Training Fund rather than The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine as required in the House-passed version of the bill, and requires the Auditor of State to audit expenditures of money from the Fund.

Removes the prohibition in the House-passed version of the bill that generally prohibits a person from selling, offering to sell, or exposing for sale any dog that is not registered with a county auditor.

Requires The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine to report on specified animal research to not only the General Assembly as required under current law, but also to the Ohio County Dog Wardens Association.

Eliminates the authority established in the House-passed version of the bill for dog wardens to enforce rabies quarantines for cats and ferrets.

Requires the board of health of a general health district to conduct rabies vaccination clinics for dogs for a nominal fee on at least a biannual basis, and, in counties where vaccination against rabies is required for the registration of a dog, authorizes the owner of a dog that is less than 12 months of age to have an additional 180 days from the date of registration to provide proof of a rabies vaccination.

In the provision in the House-passed version of the bill that exempts a dog from having a registration number when it is transferred to a county humane society, includes a dog that is transferred to an animal shelter that is operated by the dog warden.

Revises the bill's provisions that provide immunity for dog wardens, deputy dog wardens, and employees of animal shelters operated by dog wardens in any civil action that arises under Ohio laws for the sale or humane destruction of a dog by specifying that those persons may be liable if they violated the Dogs Law when attempting to determine whether the dog had a microchip implanted rather than if they acted with malicious purpose, in bad faith, or in a wanton or reckless manner as in the House-passed version.

Revises provisions in the House-passed version of the bill that establish requirements and procedures governing the disposition of a dog that is found by a person who does not own the dog by requiring the person to have the dog scanned for a microchip or to take the dog to an animal shelter operated by the dog warden in order to surrender the dog.

Increases the fee that a county may charge the owner, keeper, or harbinger of a dog that is seized and impounded for feeding and housing the dog from \$5 per day in the House-passed version of the bill to \$7 per day.

Requires the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission to ensure the availability of training courses for dog wardens and deputy dog wardens through the Ohio County Dog Wardens Associations rather than through regional criminal justice training academies or other entities approved by the Commission as in the House-passed version of the bill, and requires the Association, rather than those academies or entities, to keep and maintain records of all dog wardens and deputy dog wardens who complete training courses.

Restores the requirement in current law that county humane society agents be residents of the municipal corporation or county for which they are appointed, and also allows the agents to be residents of a contiguous county or municipal corporation.

Removes provisions that have been enacted in earlier legislation by this General Assembly.

H0446-127.doc/ar

12/17/2008

